

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043481

EXDIS, VIENNA - PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SMITH AND NOSENZO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: US EURATOM RENEGOTIATION

REF: BRUSSELS 2492
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1. EC DELEGATION HEAD FERNAND SPAAK, IN FEBRUARY 15
CALL ON DR. NYE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOSENZO,
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FLAT US REJECTION OF LANGUAGE
OFFERED BY ATOMIC GROUP CONCERNING RENEGOTIATION OF US-
EURATOM COOPERATION AGREEMENT. HE TOLD NYE THAT THIS
REJECTION COULD CREATE A SERIOUS SITUATION AND ASKED THAT

WE OFFER HIM NEW LANGUAGE WHICH WAS AS CLOSE TO ATOMIC GROUP DRAFT AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL MEETING OUR NEEDS. NYE AND NOSENZO EXPLAINED REASONS WHY ATOMIC GROUP LANGUAGE WAS NOT ADEQUATE, BUT OFFERED TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE REFORMULATION OF IT.

2. WE HAVE COME UP WITH ONE POSSIBLE REFORMULATION. QUOTE. THE COMMISSION SHOULD RAPIDLY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES THAT IT IS PREPARED TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS OF THE US/EURATOM AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS MAY LEAD TO AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT, AND KEEPING IN VIEW THAT THE RESULTS OF THE INFCE WORK WILL HAVE A BEARING

ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY RENEGOTIATION OF THE AGREEMENT. END QUOTE.

3. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGMENT ON TACTICS OF HANDLING OUR RESPONSE. WE SEE THREE BASIC OPTIONS:

A. DELAY GIVING REFORMULATION UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER READING OF THE POLITICAL LEVEL EC RESPONSE TO THIS PROBLEM. THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE TIME FOR THIS PROBLEM TO FESTER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WITH HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT MAKE MEMBERS MORE RECEPTIVE TO OUR REFORMULATION.

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B. RESPOND IMMEDIATELY (EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR BRUSSELS), IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME AVAILABLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THIS WOULD RISK A PREMATURE EC REJECTION OF OUR REFORMULATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO HARDENING OF POSITIONS AT THE TIME OF AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT.

C. INFORM SPAAK THAT, WHILE WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO COMMENT ON COMMISSION PROPOSALS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT BEST FOR US TO CONTINUE TO PROPOSE SUCCESSIVE DRAFTS WHICH THE COMMISSION THEN PRESENTS FOR COUNCIL CONCURRENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF US LEGISLATION ARE CLEAR AND THAT PROVIDING A REPLY WHICH MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS IS A STRAIGHT FORWARD PROCESS.

4. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR JUDGMENT SOONEST AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE MIGHT BEST PROCEED. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME COMMENTS FROM INFO ADDRESSEES.

5. FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE HANDLING OF THIS. VANCE

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